

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please add new claim 61, as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A system for detecting and suppressing a fire condition in a storage unit for storing freight in a storage area containing a plurality of storage units, the system comprising:

a transmitter associated with each of at least some of the plurality of the storage units and configured to transmit a first signal upon detection of a fire condition in a storage unit experiencing the fire condition;

at least one receiver configured to detect the first signal and configured to provide a second signal indicating detection of the fire condition in the storage unit experiencing the fire condition; and

a plurality of fire suppression devices, each of the fire suppression devices being associated with a storage unit and being configured to discharge a fire suppressant material into its associated storage unit upon detection of the fire condition in its associated storage unit,

wherein detection of the fire condition in any one of the plurality of storage units does not necessarily result in discharging of fire suppressant material into others of the plurality of storage units.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of storage units, a plurality of transmitters, and a plurality of receivers, and wherein an individual transmitter and an individual receiver are associated with each of the plurality of storage units.

3. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein each of the storage units is located at a predetermined position relative to the individual receiver associated with the storage unit.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein the second signal from a receiver is provided to a control panel that in response to the second signal identifies the storage unit experiencing the fire condition.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein at least some of the storage units are containers.

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein at least some of the storage units are pallets including blankets for storing the freight.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the fire suppression device comprises a pressurized vessel located within the storage unit, the vessel containing the fire suppressant material within the vessel; and

a fire detection component that activates the discharge of the fire suppressant material into the storage unit upon detection of a fire condition.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the first signal is an infrared signal.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter includes a bimetallic switch configured to close upon detection of the fire condition.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein the bimetallic switch is in contact with a surface of the storage unit.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein the bimetallic switch extends through a surface of the storage unit.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11, wherein the surface is a cover for the storage unit.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 11, wherein the surface is a fire resistant blanket.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 2, where the fire suppression device includes a source of pressurized fire suppressant material and a popup device disposed between one of the storage units and the source, the popup device being configured to apply the fire suppressant material to the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 14, wherein a storage unit is a container with a base including a hole, and the popup device includes a valve aligned with the hole, such that the fire suppressant material is discharged into the container through the hole in the base.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 14, further comprising a control unit configured to detect the second signal and transmit an activation signal to the popup device upon detecting the second signal.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 16, further comprising a control panel having a warning indicator, wherein the control unit transmits an alert signal to the warning indicator on the panel.

18. (Previously Presented) A fire suppression and indication system for use in an aircraft, the aircraft having a cockpit, a control panel in the cockpit, and a storage area, the system comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing freight, the storage units being located at predetermined positions in the storage area;

a transmitter associated with each storage unit and configured to transmit a first signal upon detection of a fire condition, the first signal being an infrared signal;

at least one receiver configured to detect the first signal and configured to provide a second signal indicating detection of the fire condition; and

a fire suppression device configured to discharge a fire suppressant material into the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

19. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 18, wherein the fire suppression device includes a source of pressurized fire suppressant material and an application mechanism associated with one of the predetermined positions, the application mechanism being arranged between one of the storage units and the source and configured to apply the fire suppression device to the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the storage unit is a container with a base including a hole, and the application mechanism includes a valve aligned with the hole, such that the fire suppressant material is discharged into the container through the hole in the base.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 20, wherein the valve is in a retracted position prior to detection of the fire condition, and the valve is configured to engage the base of the container upon detection of the fire condition.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein the application mechanism includes a piston to move the valve into contact with the base.

23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the storage units is a pallet including a fire resistant blanket, and wherein the fire suppression device is arranged below the fire resistant blanket.

24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 18, further comprising a control unit configured to receive the second signal, wherein the control unit is configured to determine the origin of the first signal based on the second signal.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24, wherein the control unit transmits a third signal to a control panel indicating the origin of the first signal.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit transmits a fourth signal to the fire suppression device to discharge the fire suppressant material into the storage unit.

Claims 27-40 (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented) A fire suppression and indication system for use in an aircraft, the aircraft having a cockpit, a control panel in the cockpit, and a storage area, the system comprising:

a plurality of containers in the storage area, wherein each container includes a base and a cover having an opening;

a fire suppression device located inside each of the containers, the fire suppression device comprising

a vessel;

a fire suppressant material inside the vessel;

a discharge tube attached to the vessel;

a fire detection system that detects a fire condition and activates the discharge of fire suppression material through the discharge tube; and

a transmitter that emits a first signal through the opening when the fire detection system releases the fire suppressant material; and

a receiver configured to be positioned within the storage area and external to the containers,

wherein the receiver is configured to detect the first signal and send a second signal to the control panel in the cockpit of the aircraft.

42. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 41, wherein the receiver is configured to be located above a corresponding one of the containers.

43. (Previously Presented) A system for detecting and suppressing a fire condition in a storage unit in a storage area, the system comprising:

a transmitter associated with the storage unit and configured to transmit a first signal upon detection of the fire condition, wherein the first signal is an infrared signal;

at least one receiver configured to detect the first signal and configured to provide a second signal indicating detection of the fire condition; and

a fire suppression device configured to discharge a fire suppressant material into the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

44. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 43, wherein there are a plurality of storage units, a plurality of transmitters, and a plurality of receivers, and wherein an individual transmitter and an individual receiver are associated with each of the plurality of storage units.

45. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 44, wherein each of the storage units is located at a predetermined position relative to the individual receiver associated with the storage unit.

46. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 45, wherein the second signal from a receiver is provided to a control panel that in response to the second signal identifies the storage unit experiencing the fire condition.

47. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 44, wherein at least some of the storage units are containers.

48. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 44, wherein at least some of the storage units are pallets including blankets for storing freight.

49. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 43, wherein the fire suppression device comprises a pressurized vessel located within the storage unit, the vessel containing the fire suppressant material within the vessel; and

a fire detection component that activates the discharge of the fire suppressant material into the storage unit upon detection of a fire condition.

50. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 43, wherein the transmitter includes a bimetallic switch configured to close upon detection of the fire condition.

51. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 44, where the fire suppression device includes a source of pressurized fire suppressant material and a popup device disposed between one of the storage units and the source, the popup device being configured to apply the fire suppressant material to the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

52. (Previously Presented) A fire suppression and indication system for use in an aircraft, the aircraft having a cockpit, a control panel in the cockpit, and a storage area, the system comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing freight, the storage units being located at predetermined positions in the storage area;

a transmitter associated with each storage unit and configured to transmit a first signal upon detection of a fire condition, wherein the first signal is an infrared signal;

at least one receiver configured to detect the first signal and configured to provide a second signal indicating detection of the fire condition; and

a fire suppression device configured to discharge a fire suppressant material into the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

53. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 52, wherein the fire suppression device includes a source of pressurized fire suppressant material and an application mechanism associated with one of the predetermined positions, the application mechanism being arranged between one of the storage units and the source and configured to apply the fire suppression device to the storage unit upon detection of the fire condition.

54. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein at least one of the storage units is a container with a base including a hole, and wherein the application mechanism includes a valve aligned with the hole, such that the fire suppressant material is discharged into the container through the hole in the base.

55. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 52, wherein the storage unit is a pallet including a fire resistant blanket, and wherein the fire suppression device is arranged below the fire resistant blanket.

56. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 52, further comprising a control unit configured to receive the second signal, wherein the control unit is configured to determine the origin of the first signal based on the second signal.

57. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56, wherein the control unit transmits a third signal to a control panel indicating the origin of the first signal.

58. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 57, wherein the control unit transmits a fourth signal to the fire suppression device to discharge the fire suppressant material into the container.

59. (Previously Presented) An aircraft comprising:
a cockpit;
a control panel located in the cockpit;
a storage area; and
the fire suppression and indication system of claim 41.

60. (Previously Presented) A system for detecting and suppressing a fire condition in a storage unit for storing freight in a storage area containing a plurality of storage units, the system comprising:

a transmitter associated with each of at least some of the plurality of the storage units and being configured to transmit a first signal upon detection of a fire condition in a storage unit experiencing the fire condition;

at least one receiver configured to detect the first signal and configured to provide a second signal indicating detection of the fire condition in the storage unit experiencing the fire condition; and

a plurality of fire suppression devices,

wherein at least two of the fire suppression devices are associated with different storage units, and

wherein the fire suppression devices are configured to discharge a fire suppressant material only into a storage unit experiencing the fire condition.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the first signal comprises an infrared signal and the second signal comprises a signal transmitted via hard wire.